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FILED IN THE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
MAY - 3 2022

SEAN F. McAVOY, CLERK
DEPUTY
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
10 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

2:22-CR-52-TOR

12 Plaintiff,

INDICTMENT

13 v.

Vio: 18 U.S.C. § 371

14 JOHN I. SANGER,
15 ERIC A. EAGLETON,
16 SHAWN ROBSON,
17 NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS,
18 JONAH PIERCE, and
19 AUSTIN LIMACHER,

Conspiracy to Commit Theft
of Government Property and
Possession of Stolen
Ammunition (Count 1)

18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j), 924(a)(2)
Possession of Stolen
Ammunition (Counts 2-9)

20 Defendants.

26 U.S.C. §§ 5841, 5845(a),
5861(d), 5871
Possession of an Unregistered
Firearm (Counts 10-12)

18 U.S.C. § 641
Receiving Stolen Government
Property
(Counts 13-16)

18 U.S.C. § 924, 49 U.S.C. §
80303, 26 U.S.C. § 5872, 28
U.S.C. § 2461
Forfeiture Allegations

1 The Grand Jury charges:

2 General Allegations

3 1. At all times relevant to this indictment, the Defendants, JOHN I. SANGER,
4 ERIC A. EAGLETON, SHAWN ROBSON, NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS,
5 JONAH PIERCE, and AUSTIN LIMACHER, were enlisted servicemembers of the
6 United States Air Force.

7 2. At all times relevant to this indictment, the Defendants, JOHN I. SANGER,
8 ERIC A. EAGLETON, SHAWN ROBSON, JONAH PIERCE, and AUSTIN
9 LIMACHER, resided within the Eastern District of Washington.

10 3. At all times relevant to this indictment, the Defendant, NATHANIEL A.
11 RICHARDS, resided within the Eastern District of Washington and the District of
12 Nevada.

13 4. At all times relevant to this indictment, the Defendant JOHN I. SANGER
14 was assigned to the 92nd Logistics Readiness Squadron (92nd LRS), Fairchild Air
15 Force Base, Airway Heights, Washington, within the Eastern District of
16 Washington.

17 5. At all times relevant to this indictment, the Defendants, ERIC A.
18 EAGLETON, SHAWN ROBSON, and AUSTIN LIMACHER, were assigned to
19 the Combat Arms Training Management (CATM) section of the 92nd Security
20 Forces Squadron (92 SFS) located on Fairchild Air Force Base, Airway Heights,
21 Washington. JONAH PIERCE was assigned to the Armory on Fairchild Air Force
22 Base, Airway Heights, Washington. All were within the Eastern District of
23 Washington

24 6. On or about March 12, 2022, Defendant, NATHANIEL RICHARDS was
25 assigned to the Fairchild Air Force Base CATM section. In early April 2022,
26 RICHARDS conducted a permanent change of station move to ^{Crunch} ~~Nellis~~ Air Force ^{DC} ~~Nellis~~ _{5/3/2022}

1 Base, Nevada. RICHARDS was assigned as the Non-Commission Officer-in-
2 Charge (NCOIC) of the ^{Creech} ~~Nellis~~ Air Force Base CATM section.

202
5/3/22

3 COUNT ONE

4 7. Beginning on a date unknown but by on or about March 12, 2022, and
5 continuing until April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington and
6 elsewhere, the Defendants, JOHN I. SANGER, ERIC A. EAGLETON, SHAWN
7 ROBSON, NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS, JONAH PIERCE, and AUSTIN
8 LIMACHER, knowingly and willfully combined, conspired, and agreed with each
9 other, and with others unknown, to commit the following offenses against the
10 United States:
11

12 a. To willfully and knowingly receive, conceal and retain stolen property of
13 the United States, that is, ammunition of a value in excess of \$1,000.00,
14 with intent to convert said property to their own use, then knowing said
15 property to have been stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641.

16 b. To knowingly possess stolen ammunition, which had been shipped in
17 interstate or foreign commerce, to wit: approximately 14,000 rounds of
18 assorted ammunition; well knowing or having reasonable cause to believe
19 the ammunition was stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j) and
20 924(a)(2).

21 The Unlawful Object And Manner And Means Of The Conspiracy

22 8. The Defendants, JOHN I. SANGER, ERIC A. EAGLETON, SHAWN
23 ROBSON, NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS, JONAH PIERCE, and AUSTIN
24 LIMACHER, conspired and combined in furtherance of the common objective of
25 stealing military ammunition from the Fairchild Air Force Base CATM for
26 personnel use.
27

28 9. As further set forth herein and below, it was a part of the conspiracy that the
Defendants, and their known and unknown conspirators, would steal military

1 ammunition, property of the United States to which the Defendants had access by
2 means of their military service, and provide the stolen ammunition to the known
3 and unknown conspirators for their personal use and possession.

4 10. It was further part of the conspiracy that the Defendants would falsify
5 documentation in order to make it appear that the stolen ammunition had been
6 expended in the ordinary course of official military use.

7 11. It was further part of the conspiracy that the Defendants, and other known
8 and unknown conspirators, would divide up the stolen ammunition amongst
9 themselves for the personal use and possession of the conspirators individually and
10 as part of the conspiracy, and would discuss amongst themselves that the
11 ammunition was stolen military ammunition that had no cost to the conspirators.
12

13 Overt Acts

14 12. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to accomplish its objectives, the
15 Defendants and other co-conspirators committed, among others, the following
16 overt acts, some within the Eastern District of Washington:

- 17 a. On or about March 12, 2022, the Defendants, SANGER, EAGLETON,
18 RICHARDS, and others known and unknown to the grand jury,
19 conducted a shooting range day at Fishtrap Lake, near Sprague,
20 Washington, within the Eastern District of Washington. While at the
21 shooting range, the Defendants, SANGER, EAGLETON, RICHARDS,
22 and others known and unknown to the grand jury, fired various forms of
23 ammunition, specifically 5.56mm M855 green tip ammunition that was
24 stolen from the Fairchild Air Force Base CATM section.
25
26 b. At the conclusion of the shooting range, RICHARDS provided
27 SANGER a one-gallon Zip Loc bag containing approximately 300 to
28 350 rounds of 5.56mm M855 green tip ammunition.

- 1 c. RICHARDS informed SANGER the ammunition was stolen from the
2 Fairchild Air Force Base CATM section. RICHARDS further explained
3 that members of the CATM section falsified the records of a USAF
4 Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) unit's weapons qualification to
5 reflect this ammunition as having been expended. This provided
6 RICHARDS and the other CATM members the opportunity to divide the
7 ammunition amongst themselves.
- 8 d. SANGER subsequently provided an Air Force Office of Special
9 Investigations (OSI) Undercover Agent (U/C) approximately sixty (60)
10 rounds of this 5.56mm M855 green tip ammunition. Subsequently, Air
11 Force OSI special agents identified the sixty (60) rounds of ammunition
12 provided to the U/C by SANGER as having previously been produced
13 by the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant located in Independence,
14 Missouri.
- 15 e. Air Force OSI special agents conducted a review of CATM records and
16 determined CATM indicated the expenditure of 5.56mm M855 green tip
17 ammunition in the amount of 5,400 rounds on or about November 20,
18 2021.
- 19 f. On March 28, 2022, SANGER contacted the Air Force OSI U/C and
20 stated EAGLETON had contacted him (SANGER) regarding additional
21 stolen ammunition. The U/C inquired into the cost for the ammunition,
22 to which SANGER responded there would be no cost because the
23 ammunition was stolen.
- 24 g. On March 29, 2022, SANGER met with EAGLETON in the Northern
25 Quest Resort and Casino parking lot. EAGLETON handed SANGER a
26 green ammunition container. SANGER then texted the U/C that he
27 received the ammunition and provided a photograph of the ammunition.
28

- h. On April 2, 2022, SANGER and the U/C went shooting at the Fishtrap Lake shooting range. The U/C noted SANGER brought ammunition consistent with the type of ammunition stolen by CATM personnel.
- i. The U/C recovered four ammunition clips containing approximately 40 rounds of 5.56mm frangible ammunition. The U/C also obtained a photograph of the green ammunition container brought by SANGER. The container indicated the contents were 5.56mm frangible ammunition, lot number FC-20A532-009.
- j. Air Force OSI special agents reviewed CATM records and determined these rounds of ammunition were recorded as having been expended sometime between March 2, 2021 and July 12, 2021.
- k. On April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Air Force OSI special agents located ammunition, consistent with the stolen ammunition, in the residences of SANGER, EAGLETON, ROBSON, PIERCE, and LIMACHER.
- l. On April 26, 2022, in the District of Nevada, Air Force OSI special agents located ammunition, consistent with the stolen ammunition, in the residence of RICHARDS.

All in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371. For the purpose of executing the scheme described above, the conspirators also committed the additional overt acts described below and detailed as separate counts.

COUNT 2

13. On or about March 12, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the Defendants, JOHN I. SANGER, ERIC A. EAGLETON, and NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS, knowingly possessed stolen ammunition, that is 5.56mm military ammunition, which had been shipped and transported in interstate commerce,

1 knowing and having reasonable cause to believe the ammunition was stolen, in
2 violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j), 924(a)(2).

3 COUNT 3

4 14. On or about March 29, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
5 Defendants, JOHN I. SANGER and ERIC A. EAGLETON, knowingly possessed
6 stolen ammunition, that is 5.56mm military ammunition, which had been shipped
7 and transported in interstate commerce, knowing and having reasonable cause to
8 believe the ammunition was stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j), 924(a)(2).
9

10 COUNT 4

11 15. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
12 Defendant, JOHN I. SANGER, knowingly possessed stolen ammunition, that is
13 5.56mm military ammunition, which had been shipped and transported in interstate
14 commerce, knowing and having reasonable cause to believe the ammunition was
15 stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j), 924(a)(2).

16 COUNT 5

17 16. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
18 Defendant, ERIC A. EAGLETON, knowingly possessed stolen ammunition, that is
19 5.56mm military ammunition, which had been shipped and transported in interstate
20 commerce, knowing and having reasonable cause to believe the ammunition was
21 stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j), 924(a)(2).
22

23 COUNT 6

24 17. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
25 Defendant, SHAWN ROBSON, knowingly possessed stolen ammunition, that is
26 5.56mm military ammunition, which had been shipped and transported in interstate
27 commerce, knowing and having reasonable cause to believe the ammunition was
28 stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j), 924(a)(2).

COUNT 7

18. On or about April 1, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the Defendant, NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS, knowingly possessed stolen ammunition, that is 5.56mm military ammunition, which had been shipped and transported in interstate commerce, knowing and having reasonable cause to believe the ammunition was stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j), 924(a)(2).

COUNT 8

19. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the Defendant, JONAH PIERCE, knowingly possessed stolen ammunition, that is 5.56mm military ammunition, which had been shipped and transported in interstate commerce, knowing and having reasonable cause to believe the ammunition was stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j), 924(a)(2).

COUNT 9

20. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the Defendant, AUSTIN LIMACHER, knowingly possessed stolen ammunition, that is 5.56mm military ammunition, which had been shipped and transported in interstate commerce, knowing and having reasonable cause to believe the ammunition was stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j), 924(a)(2).

COUNT 10

21. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the Defendant, JOHN I. SANGER, knowingly received and possessed a firearm, to wit: a Knight's Armament, model M4QD, 5.56mm silencer, bearing serial number 981376, not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, in violation of 26 U.S.C. §§ 5841, 5845, 5861(d), and 5871.

COUNT 11

22. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the Defendant, ERIC A. EAGLETON, knowingly received and possessed a firearm, to

1 wit: a gold and bronze in color firearm suppressor, bearing no tax stamps,
2 markings, or serial number, not registered to him in the National Firearms
3 Registration and Transfer Record, in violation of 26 U.S.C. §§ 5841, 5845,
4 5861(d), and 5871.

5
6 COUNT 12

7 23. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
8 Defendant, AUSTIN LIMACHER, knowingly received and possessed a firearm, to
9 wit:

- 10 - a firearm suppressor identified as a 6inch 5/8-24 Black New 1226, bearing
11 no tax stamp, markings, or serial number; and
12 - a firearm suppressor identified as a 6inch 1/2 -28 Black New 1226, bearing
13 no tax stamp, markings, or serial number,
14 not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, in
15 violation of 26 U.S.C. §§ 5841, 5845, 5861(d), and 5871.

16 COUNT 13

17 24. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
18 Defendant, SHAWN ROBSON, willfully and knowingly did receive, conceal and
19 retain stolen property of the United States, that is, one Aimpoint, M68, CompM4s,
20 Red Dot optic, bearing serial number K4592966, with intent to convert said
21 property to his own use, the Defendant, SHAWN ROBSON, then knowing said
22 property to have been stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641.

23 COUNT 14

24 25. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
25 Defendant, JONAH PIERCE, willfully and knowingly did receive, conceal and
26 retain stolen property of the United States, that is, one Aimpoint, M68, CompM4s,
27 Red Dot optic, bearing serial number K2593105, with intent to convert said
28

1 property to his own use, the Defendant, JONAH PIERCE, then knowing said
2 property to have been stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641.

3
4 COUNT 15

5 26. On or about April 1, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
6 Defendant, NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS, willfully and knowingly did receive,
7 conceal and retain stolen property of the United States, that is, a Target pointer
8 Illuminator Aiming Light, PEQ-15, bearing serial number 539627 and a Aimpoint,
9 M68, Red Dot Scope, bearing serial number K2577363, of a value exceeding
10 \$1,000, with intent to convert said property to his own use, the Defendant,
11 NATHAN RICHARDS, then knowing said property to have been stolen, in
12 violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641.

13
14 COUNT 16

15 27. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
16 Defendant, AUSTIN LIMACHER, willfully and knowingly did receive, conceal
17 and retain stolen property of the United States, that is, three Aimpoint, M68,
18 CompM4s, Red Dot optics bearing serial numbers W2535246, K4592897, and
19 K4159277, of a value exceeding \$1,000, with intent to convert said property to his
20 own use, the Defendant, AUSTIN LIMACHER, then knowing said property to
21 have been stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641.

22 NOTICE OF CRIMINAL FORFEITURE ALLEGATIONS

23 The allegations contained in this Indictment are hereby realleged and
24 incorporated by reference for the purpose of alleging forfeitures.

25 Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), upon
26 conviction of an offense(s) in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§371, 641, 922(j), as set
27 forth in Count 1 of this Indictment, Defendants JOHN I. SANGER, ERIC A.
28 EAGLETON, SHAWN ROBSON, NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS, JONAH
PIERCE, and AUSTIN LIMACHER, and/or in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641, as set

1 forth in Counts 13 – 16, Defendants, SHAWN ROBSON (Count 13), JONAH
 2 PIERCE (Count 14), NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS (Count 15), and AUSTIN
 3 LIMACHER (Count 16), shall forfeit to the United States any property, real or
 4 personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the offense(s),
 5 all pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).

6 If any of the property described above, as the result of any act or omission of
 7 Defendants:

- 8 (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- 9 (b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- 10 (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- 11 (d) has been substantially diminished in value; or
- 12 (e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided
 13 without difficulty,

14 the United States shall be entitled to forfeiture of substitute property pursuant to 21
 15 U.S.C. § 853(p), as incorporated by 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. §
 16 2461(c).

17 Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 924(d)(1) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), upon conviction
 18 of a violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j), 924(a)(2), as set forth in Counts 2 – 10 of this
 19 Indictment, Defendants, JOHN I. SANGER (Counts 2 - 4), ERIC A. EAGLETON
 20 (Counts 2, 3 and 5), NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS (Counts 2 and 7), SHAWN
 21 ROBSON (Count 6), JONAH PIERCE (Count 8) and AUSTIN LIMACHER
 22 (Counts 9 and 10) shall forfeit to the United States of America, any and all
 23 firearms and ammunition involved or used in the commission of the offense.

24 Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 80303, 26 U.S.C. § 5872 and 28 U.S.C. § 2461,
 25 upon conviction of an offense(s) in violation of 26 U.S.C. §§ 5841, 5845(a),
 26 5861(d), 5871, as set forth in this Indictment, Defendants, JOHN I. SANGER
 27 (Count 11), ERIC A. EAGLETON (Count 12), and AUSTIN LIMACHER (Count
 28

13), shall forfeit to the United States of America, any firearms involved or used in the commission of the offense(s), including, but not limited to:

DEFENDANT, JOHN I. SANGER (Count 11)

a Knight's Armament, model M4QD, 5.56mm silencer, bearing serial number 981376

DEFENDANT, ERIC A. EAGLETON (Count 12)

a gold and bronze in color firearm suppressor, bearing no tax stamps, markings, or serial number,

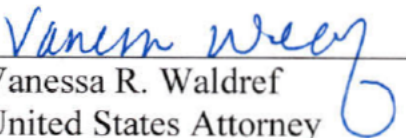
DEFENDANT AUSTIN LIMACHER (Count 13)


a firearm suppressor identified as a 6inch 5/8-24 Black New 1226, bearing no tax stamp, markings, or serial number; and

a firearm suppressor identified as a 6inch 1/2 -28 Black New 1226, bearing no tax stamp, markings, or serial number

DATED this 3 day of May, 2022.

A TRUE BILL


Vanessa R. Waldref
United States Attorney


Patrick J. Cashman
Assistant United States Attorney